Basingstoke Observer

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Thursday, December 26, 2013 - Wednesday, January 1, 2014 | Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 | www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk

WE WON'T TAKE THIS LYING DOWN

Deeside care home group vows to fight on after ruling

THE argument regarding the closure of Deeside Care Home in Basingstoke is far from over.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Now, the group dedicated to saving the care home from being closed by Hampshire County Council (HCC) have pledged to 'not take the decision lying down'.

On December 9, the county council's cabinet voted to close the South Ham home after recommendations from the authority's director of adult services.

Two other Hampshire care homes have been axed – Bulmer House in Petersfield and Nightingale Lodge in Romsey.

However, the 'Save Deeside' campaign group have vowed to fight on, and are seeking legal advice to try and overturn the decision.

Lynn Rich, whose mother-in-law is a resident at the home, blasted the 12-week consultation process as a 'complete sham'.

"We are not taking this lying down," she said. "All three homes have written to the complaints officer at HCC outlining why we feel the whole consultation and processes by HCC was a complete sham and legally flawed."

An HCC spokesman said the decision was made 'in accordance with all legal requirements.

Mrs Rich added: "We are outraged that a Tory council can make the decision to close three homes largely filled with dementia patients, when David Cameron speaking at last week's G8 summit vowed to double dementia funding, and said it was a "scandal" that the UK has not done more to address dementia.

"It would seem HCC only want to either sell off the homes to further their portfolio or rebuild Extra Care Housing on the site of the homes.

"These types of facilities are not suitable for dementia patients."

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has expressed its disappointment at the decision, having written to its Hampshire counterparts to keep the home open.

However, the HCC spokesman added: "There are 450 residential and nursing homes in Hampshire – 50 per cent of which provide dementia care.

"Hampshire is at the forefront of the dementia-friendly communities work nationally, seeking to help people with dementia to stay living in their own homes among friends and neighbours for longer.

"HCC is also developing dementia-friendly communities, which enable a culture of participation, so that people can look outwards to their communities for support."

Basingstoke Observer

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Two-week trial for abuse volunteers

VOLUNTEERS will accompany police in Basingstoke and across Hampshire to instances of domestic abuse over the festive period.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Simon Hayes has provided funding for a two-week period – five nights a week – for this to be rolled out.

Victims must give their consent for the volunteers to be present.

Mr Hayes said: "I am delighted to fund this initiative over the Christmas period but it is equally important to me that we have improved and consistent provision at all other times throughout the year.

"That is why following my recent domestic abuse conference, a number of initiatives have been identified and I am now committed to setting up a multi-agency commissioning group, along with a small workshop group to determine what, where and how to commission PCC investment to best support victims of domestic abuse.

"Further work will involve close liaison with the constabulary to improve outcomes for both victims and offenders through rehabilitation, and establishing an ongoing PCC 'Victims Voice' forum for those affected by domestic abuse to tell us exactly what is really happening."

The move comes on the back of the launch of the Speak Out Today campaign, which encourages victims of domestic abuse to not suffer in silence.

Superintendent Ben Snuggs said: "Our support agencies do a massive amount of work across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in supporting domestic abuse victims and this is a great opportunity for us to work together to provide an excellent service.

"Unfortunately during the festive period, the number of calls we receive from victims of domestic abuse rises and it is important that we have the resources available to deal with this."

Domestic incidents are the only identified incident type that shows a significantly higher level of reporting in the run-up to Christmas compared to a period earlier in December.

On average over the past six years, 20 per cent more domestic incidents have been reported at this time of year than in a similar period earlier in the month.

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Drink-drive offences up by a third in the region

DRINK and drug driving offences in Hampshire have increased by over a third from last year.

The 'Is it Worth the Risk?' drive, a joint initiative with Thames Valley Police, has seen 75 people charged with drink or drug driving offences, during the first half of December.

This a 39 per cent increase from the same period last year, where 54 were charged.

Inspector Andy Storey, heading the campaign said: "It is disappointing that people still are not getting the message about drink driving. It is astounding that people are still taking the risk.

"We are putting more resources than ever before into this campaign - if you choose to drink or drug drive, we will catch you, you will go to court and you will lose your licence.

"But the human cost of drink driving has a much greater impact. Drink driving ruins lives."

He added: "This week we are focusing on designated drivers. If you are planning a night out with friends or family, decide on a designated driver or have a plan to get home via a way that does not involve you getting behind the wheel if you have had a drink or taken something else."

Santas burn off some pre-Christmas calories

• Over 200 Santas raised money for Sebastian's Action Trust

TWO hundred Santas had an energetic start to the festive season when they took part in Sebastian's Action Trust's annual charity Santa Run on December 15.

The Santas ran, jogged, walked, scooted or cycled a 7km route around the lake at Virginia Water in Surrey for the Basingstoke-based charity.

Among those who joined the fun were a team of 15 runners from Slough and Eton Running Club taking part as a warm up to their training session which took part after the run!

Volunteer event co-organiser Meirion Shaw said: "We had the best fun.

"It was a beautiful day and we were delighted to see so many local supporters raising awareness for The Trust.

"It was fantastic to see so many new people taking part and to watch a stream of Santas making their way around Virginia Water Lake.

"We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along and took part.

"We also want to thank them for entering into the spirit of the event and making it a great morning of festive fun for a great cause."

Do you have a story to share with our readers?
Contact the Newsdesk on **01235 516930**
or email **news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

Hart scoops 'most desirable place' prize once more

HART is the 'most desirable place to live in the UK', a recent poll has revealed.

It is the third year in a row the district has claimed the prize, according to the Halifax Quality of Life Survey.

It beat Uttlesford, Essex into first place, with South Northamptonshire claiming third spot.

The annual survey assesses residents health, life expectancy, the area's crime rate, employment statistics, school results and broadband access, as well as other factors.

The poll found 97.4 per cent of people in the borough are in good health, while life expectancy is also four years longer than the UK average.

Hart has an 80 per cent employment rate, nine per cent higher than the UK-wide rate.

However, the region is more expensive, with the average house price seven times the mean pre-tax income of the region – the national average is just below six.

Martin Ellis, economist at Halifax, said: "For the third year running, Hart has delivered against a range of indicators to demonstrate its residents have the best quality of life in the UK.

"The Hampshire district scores highly on most of the measures used, including health, life expectancy, employment, average earnings, low crime, and relatively good weather.

"These factors are reflected in the fact that adults in Hart rate themselves among the happiest and least anxious in the country and believe what they do in life is worthwhile."

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Don't call 999 unless absolutely necessary

THE ambulance services that help the ill and injured in Basingstoke are urging residents not to call 999 over the winter period unless it's an emergency.

Due to the colder weather, there is a notable increase in the demand for ambulance services in Basingstoke, Hampshire and the central southern area of England, as well as around the country.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

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However, South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) are reminding people to bear in mind their 'three-step' guide as to whether a situation warrants calling the emergency number.

Mark Ainsworth, operations director, said: "We'd encourage everyone to use us appropriately and only use 999 and A&E in a genuine emergency situation.

"Choosing the right place to go for NHS treatment can save you time, get you the right level of care first time around and help us respond to genuine life threatening medical emergencies."

If somebody is in urgent need of medical attention, but their condition is not life-threatening, you can call 111.

This number can also be used if you are not sure of the correct medical procedure and need advice.

The service are also recommending that people should consult with their local pharmacist for any minor illnesses, or for advice about what medical supplies to stock up with during the winter weather.

GPs or out of hours services are there for infections, persistent symptoms, such as ear pain, rashes, fevers and depression, as well as generally feeling unwell.

And SCAS are recommending people should not dial 999 in case of relatively minor injuries, such as deep cuts, eye problems, sprains, minor head injuries, minor burns, scalds and bites – instead visit your nearby minor injuries unit or walk-in centre.

However, SCAS do not want people to feel deterred from calling the emergency services if such a situation arises.

A statement from the SCAS added: "You should always call 999 for chest pain, choking, blackout, cardiac arrest, heart attack, severe loss of blood, stroke, breathing difficulties and in the case of major accidents."

Giving local cats a second chance in life

A PET store in Basingstoke has raised more than £2,000 for a cat protection charity in its latest fundraising drive.

Pets at Home in Hatch Warren recently raised £2,229 for the Basingstoke and District branch of Cats Protection.

During the two weeks operation, Pets at Home customers were offered the chance to 'Round up to a Pound' and make further donations at the till.

Cats Protection's Basingstoke and District branch were also on hand each day.

They gave away children's cat masks, car stickers, bookmarks, stickers, badges and sold homemade cakes and raffle tickets.

All funds raised will help unwanted and abandoned cats as they wait to be found new homes.

Hilary Wells, branch co-ordinator, said: "We had great support during the event so we'd like to thank Pets at Home and everyone who came along and supported us.

"This is the second generous cheque so far this year and they are currently fundraising for us again!

"The money raised will be vital in giving local cats a second chance in life and we're very grateful to everyone who dug deep into their pockets."

The Basingstoke branch is part of 260 branches and 30 adoption centres that help over 235,000 cats and kittens each year.

Cats Protection's Basingstoke and District branch is part of a national network of 260 volunteer-run branches and 30 adoption centres that rehomes and reunites over 48,000 cats and kittens each year.

News Bites

Bilking offence

POLICE in Basingstoke are hunting a man wanted in connection with the theft of a car and subsequent theft of fuel from a petrol station.

A red Ford Fiesta was stolen from a house in Cheviot Close on the night of November 23.

The offenders then filled the car up at the Texaco garage on Aldermaston Road South at around 1.30am.

Call PC Craig Bannerman on 101 with information.

Burglary appeal

POLICE in Basingstoke are appealing for information after a burglary at a house in Winklebury.

Between 10am and midnight on December 17, offenders broke into a house in Elmwood Way.

They stole around £8,000 of jewellery and various electrical items.

PC Thomas Prutz said: "I would like to hear from anyone who saw any suspicious activity in the area on Tuesday. Have you been offered electrical items or jewellery for sale?"

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Clamping down on county's hate crime

THE police are here to help – that is the message from Hampshire Constabulary as new figures on hate crime are published.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The report suggests that the average number of hate crimes committed each year nationally is significantly higher than the number of crimes reported to the police.

'An Overview of Hate Crime in England and Wales', published on December 17, shows that in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, 1,132 hate crimes were reported to police in 2011/12 and 1,203 in 2012/13.

Inspector Sarah Clapham, from the force's Public Protection Department, said: "What the report highlights is that the police, working with our partners, still have much to do to encourage communities to speak out about hate crime, give them confidence to come forward and report incidents and demonstrate that something can be done.

"Hate crimes are offences which target individuals or communities because of who they are, for example on the grounds of disability, gender identity, race, religion or sexual orientation.

"They can go to the heart of one's personal identity and make that individual or community feel more vulnerable or isolated as a result.

"A hate crime offence may range from threatening or offensive language or behaviour through to serious violence including murder.

"But each one exposes some of the most reprehensible and prejudicial attitudes towards differences in our communities that go far beyond acceptable comment or opinion.

"My message to anyone who has been assaulted, threatened or intimidated because of who they are is to report it to the police because we are here to help and there is always something we can do.

"We take all hate incidents and hate crimes very seriously; we will always investigate and help victims get the support they need.

"All police officers and police community support officers can help.

"And, if required or requested, we also have specially trained staff, such as Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officers and Disability Champions, who have an extra understanding in their areas of expertise."

Walk leaders put their feet up with Mayor

· The Mayor of Basingstoke, Cllr Dan Putty, and the leaders of local health walks

HEALTH walk leaders from around Basingstoke and Deane had the chance to rest their feet and enjoy some Christmas cheer as they celebrated a successful year with the Mayor.

This year has seen a total of 4,829 residents attend local walks – an increase of three per cent with 94 new walkers attending regularly.

In January 2014, a new walk is due to begin in Woolton Hill.

At a festive reception at the civic offices, borough Mayor Cllr Dan Putty congratulated volunteers on a great year for walking for health in Basingstoke.

"With both national and local agendas now recognising the importance of leading an active and healthy lifestyle, there is a great need to provide local activities for the residents in the borough," he said.

"With so many volunteering their time and effort across the 11 different walks, we are able to provide opportunities for local residents to be active and enjoy the companionship of others."

News Bites

Quad bike theft

POLICE are appealing for information after a quad bike and chainsaws were stolen from a farm in Preston Candover.

Between 5pm on December 12 and 8am on December 13, offenders cut padlocks to containers and entered the farm off Wield Road.

They stole two STIHL chainsaws, a yellow Logic sprayer and a dark green Kawasaki KLF quad bike (registration HF57 FSE).

The registration plate and the sprayer were recovered nearby, but the quad bike and chainsaws have not been found.

PC Lee Bishop said: "It is believed that the quad bike was driven off from the back of the farm and onto the bridleway, which goes around a 60 acre field and then joins Wield Lane."

Ram raided!

THREE sheep are missing after a theft from a Bramley farm earlier this month.

The three Ryeland rams were taken from their pen at the farm on Cufaude Lane between 4.30pm on December 7 and 8am on December 8.

PC Steve Rogerson said: "Livestock theft is a fairly rare occurrence and it is possible that the rams were stolen to order for breeding.

"The rams had ear tags and two of them had a pink colouring all over them from breeding paint, the other had the paint on its under belly.

"This is an isolated theft and it is possible that the rams are still in a nearby location."

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Chris H

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An extra special occasion

MORE than 100 children enjoyed a magical Christmas treat at Sebastian's Action Trust's Christmas Party on Saturday.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The Winter Wonderland themed event for seriously-ill children and their siblings was held at the Macdonald Berystede Hotel in Ascot.

The afternoon was packed with festive activities with families able to climb inside the giant Snow Globe and enjoy time playing in the snow.

Families were also able to visit Father Christmas's grotto, enjoy festive face painting and have a go at festive crafts, watch magic shows, dance in the sensory disco and play on a massive scalextrics track.

Jane Gates CEO of Sebastian's Action Trust said: "We had a great afternoon; it was lovely to see so many of the families we support all together and enjoying themselves.

"The event is designed to give children who face incredible challenges throughout the year a well-deserved Christmas treat.

"The smiles on the children's faces were just brilliant and that is what it was all about.

"We would like to thank the many companies, individuals and groups who supported the event.

"It really means a lot to us and helped make it a very special afternoon for our families."

-Children enjoy the Winter Wonderland activities at Sebastian's Action Trust's Christmas party

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News Bites

Spare tyre theft

TWO men are being sought by police after stealing a spare wheel from a van in Basingstoke.

The offenders struck between 10.30pm and 11pm on December 13, and were spotted by the van's owner when the vehicle was parked in Delius Close.

However, they ran off towards Sullivan Road and have not been seen since.

Both men were wearing dark clothing, of slim build and around 6ft tall. One of them had short curly hair.

Bush pervert being hunted

A MAN in his 60s is wanted after 'committing an indecent act' in some bushes opposite Chineham Shopping Centre.

The man, who is white, thin, with a deep voice and floppy grey hair, was seen performing the act at around 7.30am on December 9.

At the time, he was wearing a black puffy jacket with the hood half up. He was also said to be scruffy-looking.

PC Gemma Dunn said: "A woman sat at the bus stop witnessed this incident and another woman is also believed to have seen it. She was then seen to get in a silver vehicle. I am really keen to speak to this woman."

Contact PC Dunn on 101 at Basingstoke Police Station if you have any information about the man or the woman in question.

Turning the tables on economic hardship

HAMPSHIRE County Council (HCC) is working with furniture reuse providers across the county to help vulnerable people and families who are struggling to cope to access affordable, and sometimes free, furniture, white goods and electrical items.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The Hampshire Furniture Reuse Network aims to alleviate immediate crisis and instances where families 'make do' or 'go without', as well as reduce dependency on high cost borrowing and loan repayment schemes, which often lead to financial hardship.

Organisations who support vulnerable people, help people resolve a crisis or provide information, advice and guidance in this area are encouraged to contact HCC to discuss how they can access the Network for their customers and clients.

Councillor Liz Fairhurst, HCC's executive member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, said: "The network is an excellent way of helping people access affordable, high-quality, essential and desirable items during times of hardship and to reduce their dependency on taking out loans.

"Organisations who provide support to vulnerable people are encouraged to get in touch to find out how they can access the Network to support individuals and families they work with.

"Residents can also donate their unwanted items to the Network and further information is available at www.hants.gov.uk/furniturenetwork.

The Network has positive social and environmental impacts. By reusing an item of furniture, the energy associated with manufacturing a new one or recycling it is saved and it also helps to reduce fly tipping.

In addition, the scheme helps strengthen the Hampshire economy by using local organisations.

Hampshire has developed the Network using its Local Welfare Assistance – funding from the Department for Work and Pensions to develop local help and support for people who are struggling to cope beyond the remit of current social and health care statutory services support.

The scheme ensures the funding the county council receives reaches more households in need from organisations who can also provide on-going support or advice to reduce the likelihood of future crisis.

Basingstoke wraps up a gift for those in need

· Abbey Hutchings and Jodie Bramhall from Regus in Basingstoke with some of the shoeboxes collected by the workplace provider for the Operation Christmas Child Appeal

BASINGSTOKE'S community have rallied to give gifts to disadvantaged children through the annual Samaritans Operation Christmas Child appeal.

Over the last few weeks, people have been dropping off present-filled shoeboxes at the Regus centre at Chineham Business Park in Basingstoke, which has supported this year's appeal.

The Basingstoke centre is part of a network of 220 Regus centres in the UK which collected over 5,000 boxes.

The appeal involves filling shoeboxes with small toys, sweets and other gifts to send to children overseas in refugee camps, orphanages, homeless shelters and impoverished neighbourhoods.

John Spencer, CEO of Regus in the UK, said: "We were really pleased our local network of Regus centres could help by being collection points for such a worthwhile cause and we would like to thank all the local businesses, schools, groups and individuals who brought in shoeboxes and made it a great success."

Last year nearly one million children in 15 countries around the world received a Christmas shoebox and over 100 million have been distributed since the charity launched 23 years ago.

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'Incredibly valuable' projects

A BASINGSTOKE school has narrowly missed out on being crowned this year's Hampshire Schools' Challenge champions.

Fort Hill Community School were up against four other institutions from around the county who submitted projects aimed at providing social interaction for elderly people, as well as increasing understanding between generations.

The Basingstoke school's idea focusing on developing a theatre production about the 1960s.

Despite missing out, they were given £250 as a runner-up prize to help kick-start the project.

However, they missed out on the top prize of £1,000, which was eventually awarded to Wildern School in Hedge End.

Wildern impressed the judges with their idea of a how-to guide for modern technology.

The other schools who took part were Baycroft School in Fareham, Swanmore College and Brune Park Community School in Gosport.

Councillor Roy Perry, leader of Hampshire County Council, said: "With Hampshire facing an ageing population, projects such as these, which provide social interaction and leisure activities for elderly residents whilst helping them to remain active, are incredibly valuable."

Oakley gets big broadband boost

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

NEARLY 2,000 homes in Oakley are set to feel the benefits from a brand new 'super-fast' broadband switch-on.

The first service 'cabinet' was switched-on by Hampshire County Council leader Roy Perry on December 18, bringing immediate high-speed technology to 250 homes and businesses in the region.

And it is estimated 1,900 premises will have access to the technology in the months ahead, as part of the Hampshire Superfast Broadband programme.

Oakley's switch-on was part of a nationwide 'Super Switch-on Day', which saw many broadband cabinets in the country simultaneously going live.

The government's communications minister, Ed Vaizey, praised the move as 'vital'.

"The switching on of super-fast broadband in Oakley is great news for both local residents and businesses," he said.

"This announcement is just part of a transformation of broadband services happening throughout the UK.

"Broadband is an essential part of Hampshire's present and future. It is vital that we embrace this latest generation of technology in order for our economy to remain competitive."

Cllr Perry added the initiative was 'an important step forward'.

The county's broadband programme will reach 90 per cent of homes and business by the end of 2015.

Earlier this month, Cllr Perry released £9.2million to boost HCC's broadband plans, and the authority hopes to have 95 per cent of properties reached in four years time.

"Hampshire's programme will fill the gap in smaller, rural areas that would otherwise be left out because the numbers of people who could potentially sign up are not commercially viable for providers.

"Without our investment, these communities most likely would be left behind, as the broadband service providers invest in more densely populated neighbourhoods where there are greater numbers of people to use their services."

"This is an important issue for this council and we have a very real interest in making sure that the private sector suppliers of broadband services will, over the coming years, offer superfast services to as many of the people and businesses in Hampshire as possible."

· Cllr Roy Perry (right) switches on the Oakley super-fast broadband cabinet

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'Guardrails' software gets national praise

BASINGSTOKE and North Hampshire Hospital has been recognised as one of the first users of software that enhances safety for patients receiving medication by infusion.

Infusion devices or pumps are electronic devices which deliver nutrients or medication to a patient in controlled amounts.

'Guardrails' is a piece of medication safety software that protects patients from inadvertent programming errors in electronic infusion devices.

The software also alerts users when a programming error has occurred, before the medicine has been administered to the patient.

Over the last five years the Guardrails technology has provided the hospital with important additional checks to minimise the risk of death or serious harm from over or under infusion rates, identifying and preventing serious patient safety incidents.

The article was published earlier this year in a special edition of the British Nursing Journal of Nursing, and credits Hampshire Hospitals' Deputy Chief Nurse Edmund Cartwright and Antimicrobial Pharmacist Taryn Keyser as co-authors.

Chief Nurse Donna Green said: "I am very proud of the work Edmund and Taryn have done in bringing this innovation to the attention of Professor Cousins. To receive national recognition for their work is a bonus; however the real gain is the improved safety of our patients."

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Entertainment

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If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

Panto season at the Anvil

IT'S the most wonderful time of the year. A time when theatres are transformed into magical realms of fun, laughter and festive spirit.

By Ian Redman
news@taylornewspapers.co.uk

That is certainly true of The Anvil in Basingstoke, as it hosted its Christmas pantomime for this year, Aladdin.

An impressive production which offered something for the whole family to enjoy, Aladdin boasted a fantastic cast and captivating special effects.

With flashes, strobe lighting, projections and pyrotechnics such as real flame effects, the stage of The Anvil really did become a whole new world.

With a cast including Chris Carswell, Rebecca Marks, Colin Baker, Derek Moran and Ian Good, the story saw Abanazar using Aladdin to gain possession of a magical lamp, with which he could obtain untold power.

The production put some new twists onto this classic family favourite, achieving a perfect balance between storytelling and the light-hearted comedy, which is the heart of pantomime.

In addition to some songs familiar to viewers of the classic Disney film, the show also incorporated tunes from artists such as Rihanna and One Direction.

The musicians did a superb job with their renditions of the numerous songs and scores heard throughout, creating a fantastic soundscape for the production.

The show really captivated its audience, incorporating them into the action. Moran also hosted a segment near the end of the evening, which brought some children on-stage to participate.

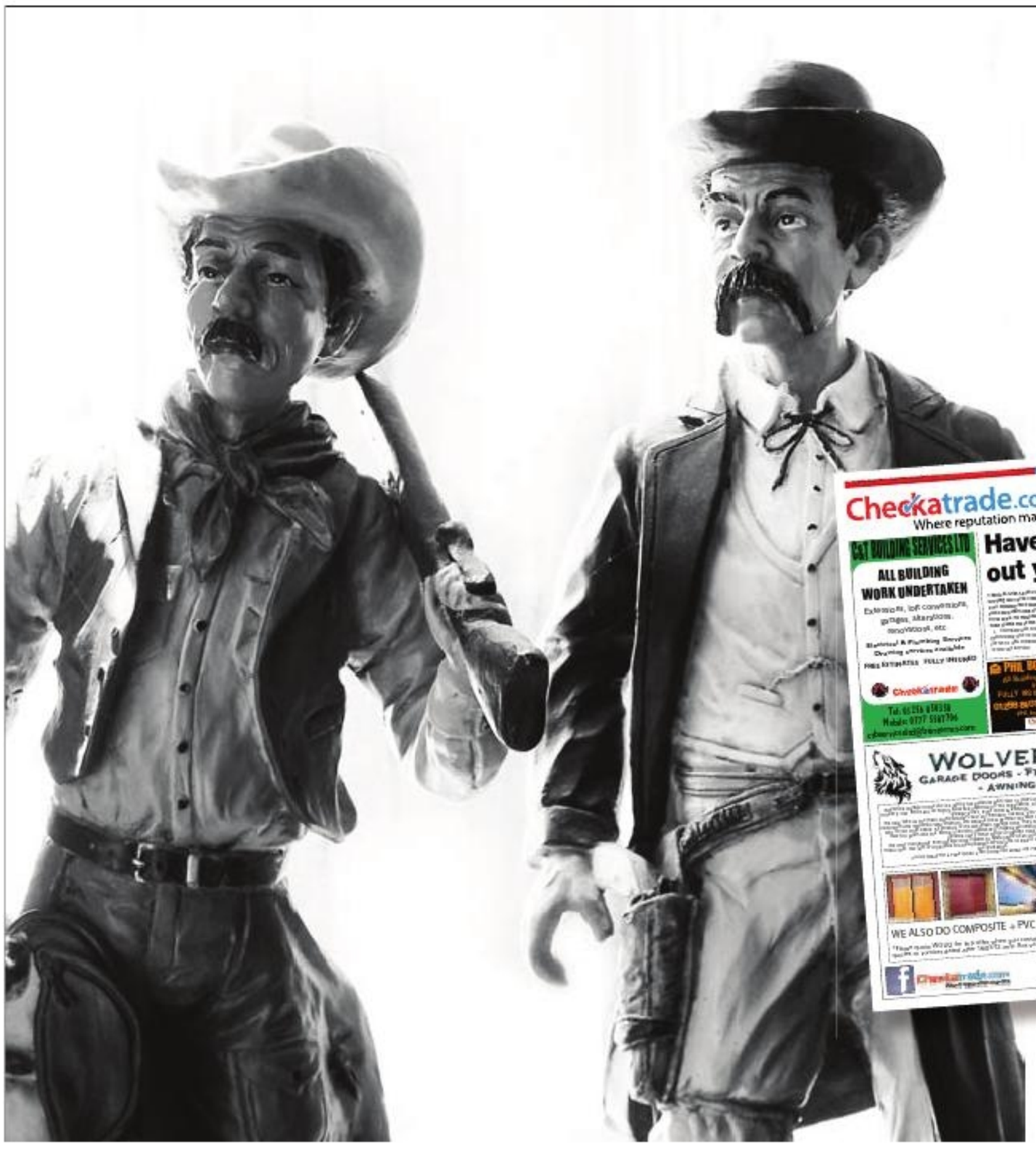
Audience members had a number of surprises in store for them, and a wonderful new take on the traditional 'Twelve Days of Christmas' carol put a huge grin on the face of everybody in the room.

Everyone involved with this production should be commended for bringing a classic favourite to life with such energy and creativity, delivering drama and comedy in equal measure.

The show thrilled and entertained audiences young and old (and soaked some of them too), and Aladdin has proven itself to be a perfect example of why the Christmas pantomime is such an essential ingredient of the festive season.

Aladdin is running at The Anvil until January 5. More details of performances are available on their website: www.anvilarts.org.uk.

• The Anvil's 2013 pantomime, Aladdin, is running until January 5



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If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

Kicking off 2014 in style!

• Actor and comedian Miles Jupp's new show is on February 7

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

BASINGSTOKE'S Central Studio, based at Queen Mary's College (QMC), has revealed its line-up of shows for the New Year, with a mix of children's theatre, live music and comedy.

The Snow Queen gets the 2014 programme underway, telling the story of Gerda on her search to find Kay, who has been kidnapped by the evil queen in this theatrical show for youngsters.

Talented musicians are invited to try their hand at a live stage performance for an open mic night on January 17, followed by the Live and Unsigned event featuring Hampshire's best bands the next day.

Melo the one-legged musician stars in the children's theatre show The Golden Princess, set in the mysterious Land of Rumours using a mix of acting, puppets, shadows and music.

Comedian and former Never Mind the Buzzcocks team captain Sean Hughes arrives at the end of January with his newest show 'Penguins', where he speaks about an angry monk as part of the tour.

More comedy comes to Central Studio the following week with Miles Jupp, who discusses a long list of topics including fatherhood, the government and other people's pants.

• Tribute act The Mods are in Basingstoke on February 22

The famous musical Les Miserables will be staged on February 15, performed by QMC students recounting the struggle against adversity in 19th century France.

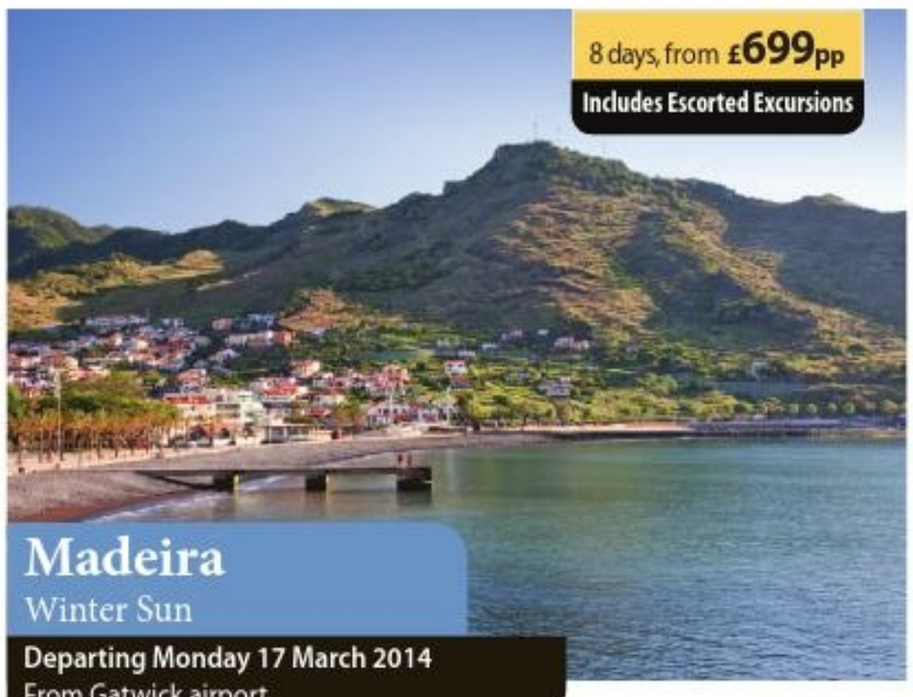
Sixties and seventies tribute band The Mods perform a mix of songs from the two decades, including hits from The Who, The Kinks and The Beatles, for an evening of live music.

February comes to an end with the theatre production of Woyzeck, set against the backdrop of World War One, and is a startling depiction of a lowly soldier plagued by visions of the apocalypse.

A full list of shows, along with start times and ticket prices, can be found by calling 01256 418318 or going online to www.centralstudio.co.uk.

• Sean Hughes brings his new show to Central Studio on January 31

Basingstoke Observer



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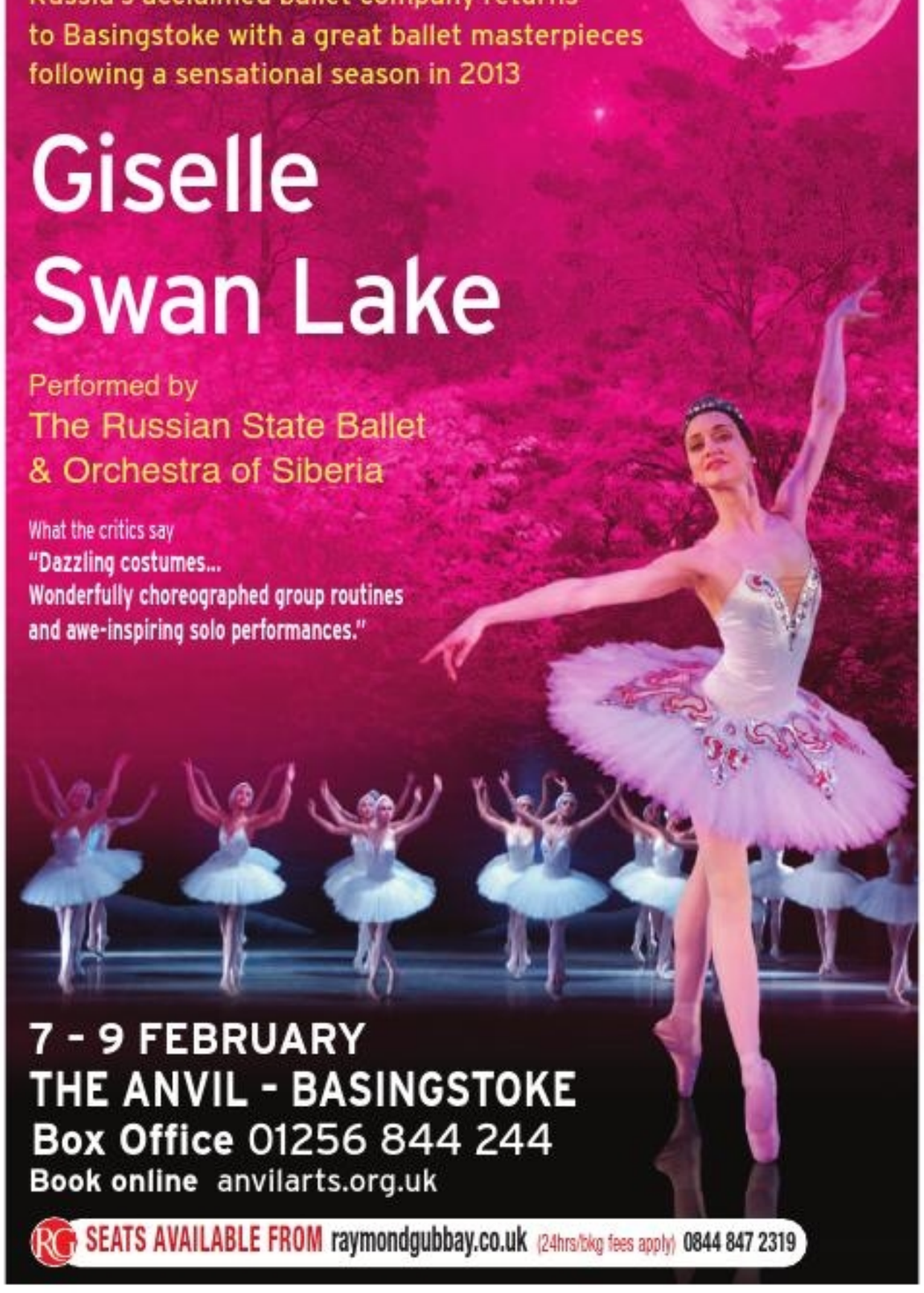

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25 Jan 2014, 7:45 pm
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THE KAST OFF KINKS
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25 Jan 2014, 11:00 am
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
THE GOLDEN PRINCESS
£6 full, £5 children
Melo, the strange, one legged musician, sits alone by the sea, content in his world and playing the most beautiful music. But who comes here? A golden carriage bearing a Princess so beautiful that she wears a golden mask to hide her blinding beauty. And she pushes him in the mud!
A theatrical performance using acting, puppets, shadows and music.

25 Jan 2014, 11:00 am
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
THE SNOW QUEEN
£6 full, £5 children
With beautifully crafted songs, this Anderson tale will delight and enthral all who watch. This is an adventure story that follows Gerda on her search to find Kay who has been kidnapped by the Snow Queen.

30 Jan 2014, 7:30 pm
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31 Jan 2014, 8pm
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The Ultimate Musicals Experience will be advertised on TV in the run up to Xmas and will be available on CD and download.

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Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

		4	5			8	2	
	2		9	3		4		5
1	7		8					
		3			8		6	4
7			2		6			9
4	8		7			1		
					9		3	6
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	7	4	5					
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7		2				9		
		8	2				1	7
	3			5				6

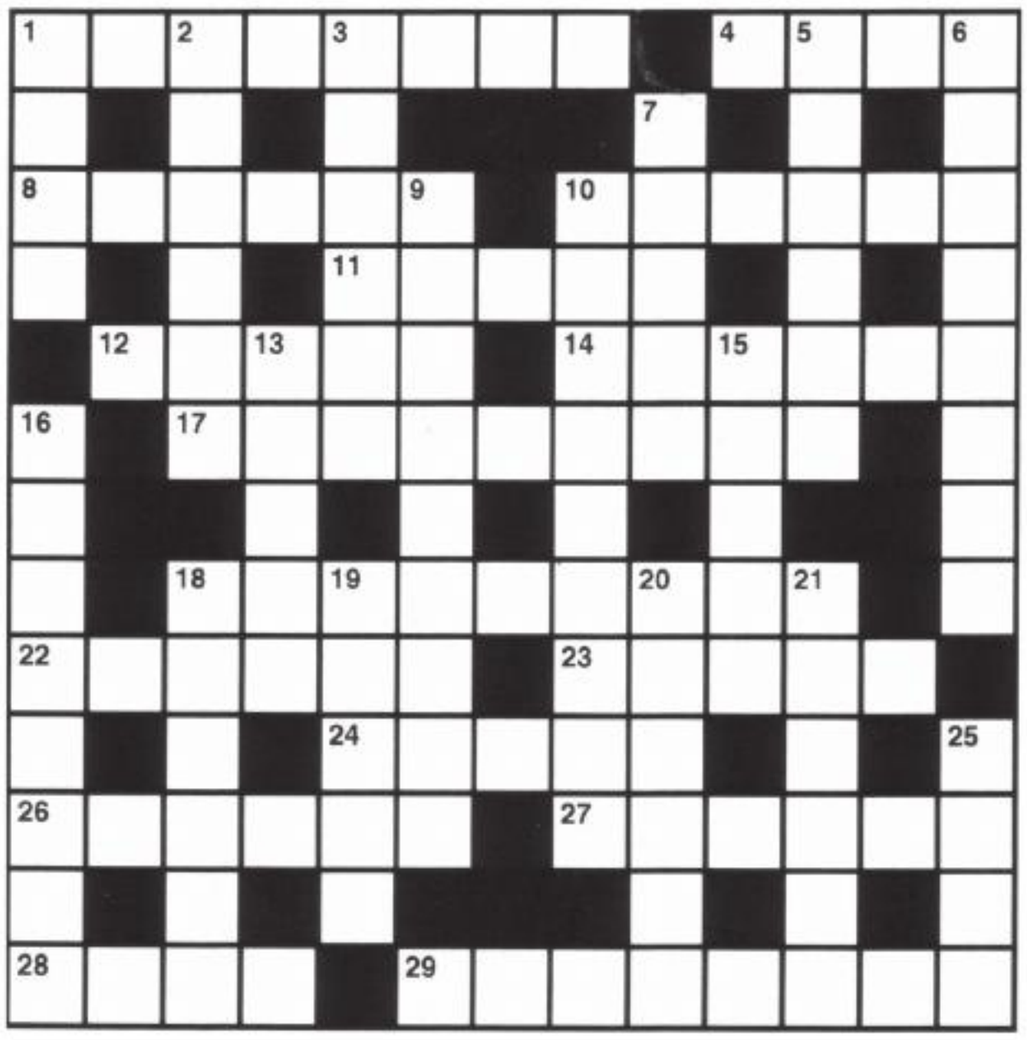
Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across
1 Representing something abstract (8)
4 Mimics (4)
8 Sudden invasion (6)
10 Tropical fruit (6)
11 Female monarch (5)
12 Musical show (5)
14 Not substantial (6)
17 Voted in again (9)
18 Disappearing (9)
22 Facial expressions (6)
23 Literary composition (5)
24 Move furtively (5)
26 Divides (6)
27 Linen fabric (6)
28 Satisfy fully (4)
29 Manipulators (8)

Quick Clues Down
1 Whirl (4)
2 Malicious killing (6)
3 Dull (6)
5 Calm (6)
6 Least big (8)
7 French Impressionist painter (5)
9 Contestants (9)
10 Position established by invaders (9)
13 Easily corrupted (5)
15 Guides for horses (5)
16 Continues to exist (8)
18 Fragrant plant (6)
19 Snug places (5)
20 Land mass surrounded by water (6)
21 Car shelter (6)
25 Glides on snow (4)

Cryptic Clues Across
1 Persons of rank who don't go skating? (8)
4 Retain part of 14 (4)
8 Everyone taken in by bad song (6)
10 Secure for salvage (6)
11 New diets are named we hear (5)
12 Sacks the ingrates (5)
14 Fortress in which to throw the French (6)
17 Possibly cast carp hence (9)
18 Shrinking from girl I once upset (9)
22 How the Count got framed (6)
23 Bury in the main terminus (5)
24 It's no secret when they are spilt (5)
26 Ned in trouble? Fastened on quite the opposite (6)
27 Egg and roe for dragonkiller (6)
28 We hear you will get it at Christmas (4)
29 At the seaside they go out regularly (3,5)

Cryptic Clues Down
1 Spheres of vision? (4)
2 Sounds like the Duke of Edinburgh's tonic (6)
3 Search wildly for what follows (6)
5 No longer a sight, we hear, to agitate (6)
6 No absence of gifts by the sound of it (8)
7 This litter could well be tidy (5)
9 Revealed Pluto was shut up (9)
10 Bringing to mind a change of name (9)
13 Upset the beer before a hundred get the instrument (5)
15 Being deficient can be taken in by holy man (5)
16 Clumsy and unlikely to make a profit (8)
18 A 'spoken' line? (6)
19 Squares can be so solid (5)
20 Possibly a fly little thing (6)
21 Agreed it could be equipped (6)
25 The best sort of wagers (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

4	1	7	5	2	6	3	9	8
5	3	8	4	7	9	6	1	2
2	9	6	1	3	8	7	4	5
8	4	1	9	6	5	2	3	7
7	5	3	2	8	1	9	6	4
6	2	9	7	4	3	8	5	1
1	6	5	8	9	7	4	2	3
9	7	4	3	5	2	1	8	6
3	8	2	6	1	4	5	7	9

4	5	7	3	6	8	2	9	1
8	1	9	5	2	7	3	4	6
6	2	3	9	1	4	8	5	7
9	7	2	6	8	3	5	1	4
1	4	5	2	7	9	6	8	3
3	6	8	1	4	5	9	7	2
7	3	4	8	9	2	1	6	5
5	9	6	4	3	1	7	2	8
2	8	1	7	5	6	4	3	9

5	3	8	4	6	9	1	7	2
6	1	2	8	7	5	9	3	4
7	9	4	3	2	1	6	5	8
9	6	5	2	3	4	7	8	1
2	7	1	5	8	6	3	4	9
4	8	3	1	9	7	2	6	5
3	2	7	9	5	8	4	1	6
1	5	9	6	4	3	8	2	7
8	4	6	7	1	2	5	9	3

Quick Crossword
Across: 4 Across 8 Inflate 9 Toddle 10 Cover girl 11 Dial 13 Inane 14 Ascends 16 Setting 18 Idler 19 True 21 Semi-final 22 Antics 23 Endemic 24 Theory
Down: 1 Announcer 2 Alternate 3 Stage 5 Cool 6 Ordain 7 Spells 9 Trust 11 Deadlines 12 Adrenalin 15 Andes 16 Strait 17 Turtle 20 Diana 21 Scar

Cryptic Crossword
Across: 4 Coffer 8 Portion 9 Places 10 Stevedore 11 Sore 13 Tripe 14 Amperes 16 Couples 18 Peers 19 Erne 21 Tolerates 22 Saloon 23 Circles 24 Siding
Down: 1 Posterior 2 Stovepipe 3 Bonds 5 Ogle 6 Factor 7 Rushes 9 Prime11 Severance 12 Retriever 15 Felon 16 Census 17 Unclad 20 Refit 21 Town

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It's the saloon of choice

REVIEW: BMW 5-series

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

BMW'S 5-series needs little introduction. For decades it's been the saloon of choice for the keen driver and more recently the frugally-minded Fleet Manager.

Effectively replacing the Efficient Dynamics model, and offering improved efficiency, this latest 520d sits in the lower section of the range, but the M Sport option adds a sportier look, with bigger 18-inch wheels and stiffened suspension.

The headline news however, is the lower emissions and increased fuel efficiency: BMW claim 62.8 mpg and 117g/km for the cheaper SE-spec car. The bigger wheels on this M-Sport example bring economy down slightly to 57.6 mpg – the trade-off for sharper handling.

On the road the new 5-series certainly lives up to its reputation as a keen driving machine and immediately impresses with its fluid and balanced handling. The superb steering balance and feel embarrasses many rivals too. Ride refinement is now much improved – further helped with the optional Variable Damper Control, which ensures the 5-series composure is maintained, even on bumpy and rutted country roads.

Although precise enough, the six-speed manual box is less enjoyable to use, having a slightly notchy quality to its action, but many buyers will go for the eight-speed ZF automatic option – especially as it returns identical economy figures.

Although the usual four-cylinder diesel clatter seems incongruous with a large BMW, the 2.0 litre motor quietens down once under way and feels strong and punchy, if not outright rapid.

The cabin feels very upmarket - helped by the standard Black Dakota leather - while the BMW Business Navigation system is also now included on all variants. The driving position is very good, as is the comfort and support of the seats. All models get electric adjustment for the seat height and backrest angle, but seat sliding fore and aft is done manually.

Although far from cramped, with plenty of room for four, interior space certainly isn't class-leading and comfort of a third rear passenger will be compromised by the chunky transmission tunnel. Boot space is good though, at 520 litres.

Verdict:

The latest incarnation of the BMW 5-series skillfully blends class-leading driving appeal, prestige and comfort with efficient and powerful engines, strong residual values and low running costs. Little wonder it was recently crowned 'best executive car' by Fleet World magazine earlier this year.

• *The new BMW 5-series*

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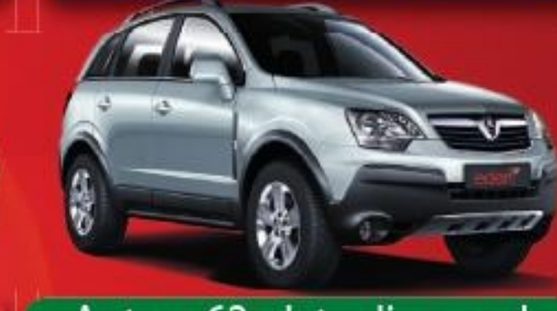

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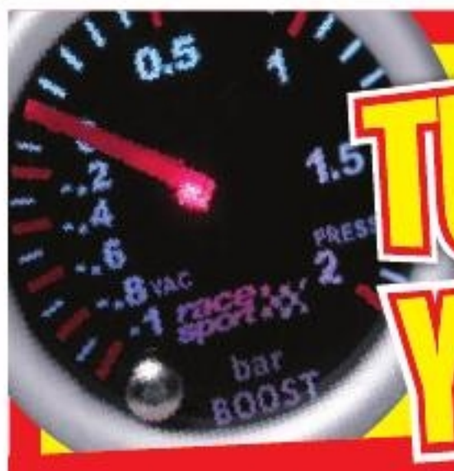

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DRUM Kit, Complete full size drum kit inc. sticks , 100 Pounds, 07909533656

DVDS, X FILES (21 DVDs) Series 1, 2 & 4, £20, 01256470765

DVDS, CRACKER (bOX SET) COMPLETE SERIES, £10, 01256470765

For Sale

DVDS, INDIANA JONES (BOX SET) FILM SET 4 DVDS, £5, 01256470765

DVDS, MESSIAH - BBC DETECTIVE - SERIES 1 - 4, £6, 01256470765

DVDS, FRAZIER SERIES 1 -4, 16 DVDS, £16, 01256470765

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22" HD Ready Digital LCD TV, For Sale 22" HD Ready Digital LCD TV with built-in DVD player and FREEVIEW, £70, 07534990338

HP COMPAQ PRESSARIO C700 NOTEBOOK PC, Intel Pentium Dual @1.46 GHz, Memory 014 MB, Hard Disk 150 GB, £70, 07534990338

BROADBAND Router, D-Link DSL-2640R/UK Broadband Wireless G ADSL2+ Modem Router , £10, 07534990338

BLOOD Glucose Monitoring Kit- New unopened, OneTouch Verio IQ Blood Glucose Monitoring System with rechargeable Battery including 10 Test Strips, Lancing Device, 10 Sterile Lancets, Mini USB cable, Wall charger with Adapter, Carrying case, Mid Control Solution and Manual., £15, 07534990338

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DVDS, JAMES BOND - 13 DVDS - VARIOUS, £20, 01256470765

DVDS, GODFATHER FILM SET (BOX SET), COMPLETE SET, £6, 01256470765

DVDS, LIVING PLANET - DAVID ATTENBOROUGH BOX SET, £8, 01256470765

DVDS, CSI 24 DVDS, (BOX SET), £20, 01256470765

DVDS, SIMPSONS, SERIES 1 - 5, BOX SET 20 DVDS, £25, 01256470765

DVDS, HOUSE, BOX SET , SERIES 1 & 2, 12 DVDS , £10, 01256470765

DVDS, DRO THE DEAD DONKEY, COMPLETE SET (BOX SET), £5, 01256470765

DVDS, PRIME SUSPECT (BOX SET), COMPLETE SERIES, £10, 01256470765

DVDS, A TOUCH OF FROST - ALL EPISODES, 36 DVDS, £30, 01256470765

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PRAM, graco 4 wheel travel system, £80, 07789358643

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BEDROOM chest of drawers, "stag" mahogany 3 drawer chest, vgc. pls call for measurements, £65, 01256470765

XBOX 360 elite, xbox 360 elite console with 2 wireless controllers, network adaptor and 2 games, £100, 07732389266

PRAM, graco 4 wheel travel system, £80, 07789358643

DVDS for children, shrek 1 & 2, willie wonka, w of oz, £6, 01256470765

DVDS, brittas empire, series 1 - 7, 14 dvds, £10, 01256470765

DVDS, dinner ladies on dvd, series 1 & 2, , £4, 01256470765

DVDS, inspector morse on dvd, complete series (box set) 33 dvds, £25, 01256470765

DVDS, prime suspect (box set) complete series, 8 dvds, £10, 01256470765

DVDS, cracker (box set) complete collection, 10 dvds, £10, 01256470765

DVDS, a touch of frost (box set), all episodes, complete series, 36 dvds, £30, 01256470765

DVDS, dads army, complete series, all episodes, 14 dvds, £15, 01256470765

DVDS, csi (box set), 24 dvds, series 1 -4, £20, 01256470765

DVDS, james bond films, various, 13 dvds, £20, 01256470765

DVDS, david attenborough, living planet (box set), £10, 01256470765

BEDROOM drawers , mahogany "stag" minstrel 3 dr in vgc, £65, 01256470765

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MENS walking boots, mens brown lace-up over ankle, walking boots, made in italy, leather. excellent condition, as new., £20, 01256470765

LEGO fork lift sit & push'n long, childs fork lift truck with moveable fork, storage seat and large lego bricks 18thmths- 2 years, £7, 07831947754

FIRE engine sit & push'n long, fire engine sit and push along 18mths - 2years good condition, £5, 07831947754

CHILDS car seat - brand new never been used, childs car seat - never been used up to18kg, £20, 07831947754

DVDS, just good friends, series 1 & 2, vgc, £5, 01256470765

DVDS, godfather film set (box set) complete series vgc, , £6, 01256470765

DVDS, messiah - bbc detective series 1 -4, £6, 01256470765

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POWER wheelchair, sunrise samba lite quickie 2wheelchair in good condition 2 new batteries fitted, 400 o n o, 07501588456

HORNBY railway zero one contoller, r 950 master contoller and 3 r951 slave controllers , £20, 01256 851167

PECO streamline sl100x rail , 00 guage flexible track four 90cm lengths unused "6, £6, 01256 851167

BEATRIX potter, character ceramic figures wanted by private collector., £0, 01189 413708

TV stand.3 Shelves, 3shelves, glass,excellent condition., £30.00 Ono., 07554006787

YANKEE screwdriver, model130a (collectable), £10, 07771592517

FRIDGE, beko under counter silver, £50, 01256881783

JACOBS chuck, 2-13mm brand new with key, £10, 07771592517

RAC badge, collectable rac badge approx 3inch-diameter silver with blue emblem in middle, £60, 07771592517

TRICO rear wiper kit, fits cortina/escort estates brand new may fit kit cars, £20, 07771592517

FORD pinto, viscous fan &coupling used but excellent condition, £10, 07771592517

SYKES pickavant, dial guage excellent condition, £10, 07771592517

MORRIS marina, 1971/72 workshop manual by autopress, £8, 07771592517

FORD motor company, 1976 cortina /taunus genuine workshop manual, £15, 07771592517

MP3 player, i pod nano lookalike unwanted presenr still boxed with leads, £20, 07771592517

JOHN player special, corgi 1-36 scale f1 car excellent condition but no box, £10, 07771592517

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WOLSLEY 6/110, genuine drivers handbook excellent condition, £10, 07771592517

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MK 5 astra estate, 2 front and 1 rear wiper blades all unused, £20, 07771592517

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TRIUMPH 2000/2500, drivers hand book, £8, 07771592517

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PEUGEOT 04 206, under bonnet fuse box part no bsm be6500y1 reason for selling it was replaced but did not cure the fault, £25, 07771592517

AA&RAC collectables, 1960racguide/handbook aa 1956 handbook, £20 ono, 07771592517

BLUE point/snap on, metric4mm-12mm tap and die set unf 1/4-1/2 inch tap and die set, £120 ono, 07771592517

COLLECTABLE radio, vidor lady elizebeth portable valve radio, £25ono, 07771592517

ASTRA j mk6, set of 4 wheel trims (like brandnew), £40, 07771592517

DINNER set, wilko dining poppy meadow dining set 12 piece, excellent condition. Box packed, £6, 07534990338

SET top box, bush freeview digital tv set top box with scart cable, excellent condition as new, £5, 07534990338

DVDS, a large selection of top quality dvds, comedy, tv shows, detective, shrek, films,... Pls call for details, from £2, 01256 470765

CHILDS car seat 0-4years, brand new never been used car seat 0-18 kg, £20, 07831947754

SIT/PUSH along train 1-2 years, sit/push along train with storage seat 1-2 years, £6, 07831947754

FORK lift truck push/sit along, lego fork lift truck with moveable fork and storage seat with large lego bricks, £9, 07831947754

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CHAIRS, wicker rattan chairs four off plus cushions year old excellent condition, £110, 01189884790

SCISSOR jack, sealey 1 tonne hardly used, £10, 07771592517

FORD pinto, viscous fan coupling part number 79vb 8a616 bb still in original packaging, £30, 07771592517

ROYAL doulton, crystal stemware square decanter with stopper new and unused still in original box, £15, 07771592517

DELL boy, yuppy phone oldmobile phone with leather case and spare battery, £40, 07771592517

FORD cvh, valve spring compressor, £10, 07771592517

FORD, rear number plate lamps fits early fords 10 in total, £10, 07771592517

FORD granada, rear fog lamp to fit estate cars (brand new), £10, 07771592517

AA badges, 2 old winged type, £40, 07771592517

IKEA, 2 kitchen chairs light oak with chrome legs excellent condition, £22, 07771592517

VAUXHALL, locking wheel bolts boxed with key, £10, 07771592517

BED, silentnight santiago memory latex divan bed and headboard. Excellent condition, £100, 07534990338

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Long joins ranks as Bison hope for EPL success...

BASINGSTOKE Bison are back in league and cup action this weekend, following the double-header against Bracknell Bees before Christmas.

By **Adam Flinn**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

They host Swindon Wildcats on Saturday, before their final game in the league stages of the EPL Cup with a trip to Sheffield Steeldogs.

Last weekend's games against Bracknell were the first for new signing Ciaran Long, who joins Bison from rivals Slough Jets.

The 22-year-old has played for Basingstoke before during the 2010/11 season, before moving to Manchester Phoenix where he enjoyed a career-high 19 goals.

He was Slough's leading goal-scorer before his move back to Bison, having found the net 15 times so far this season.

Bison player-coach Doug Sheppard said: "He is a heck of a young player and has a lot of potential. I am looking forward to coaching him."

Long added: "I am excited to be coming back to the Bison as they have a very good team.

"At Slough I was given the opportunity to play on special teams and I feel I read off other players really well.

"This is my year and I want to win some silverware. It is about time for me."

Bison were third in the English Ice Hockey Premier League before last weekend's games, with 19 wins from 27 matches this season.

They are also third in the cup after 17 games with 25 points, five behind current leaders Guildford Flames.

Bison have a tough run of fixtures waiting for them for the start of 2014, with an away trip to Guildford on New Year's Day followed by matches with Manchester Phoenix on January 4 and 12.

There are 25 games remaining for Bison including this weekend's two fixtures, and they will be hoping to keep the pressure on the leaders and go one better than their runners-up spot in 2012/13.

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· Player-coach Doug Sheppard (Picture by Grant King (5holephotography.co.uk))

Topsy-turvy season so far for Basingstoke RFC

BASINGSTOKE RFC will be looking to put the disappointment of some of their recent games behind them, as they prepare for the second half of the season.

Prior to last weekend's game against Dorking, "Stoke had lost three in a row to Tring, Barnes and Tonbridge Juddians in the National League 3 London and South East.

It has been a tough season for Jason Croker's men this season, although they have managed to win five of their opening 13 games and score 27 points in the process.

They got off to a tough start as they were comprehensively beaten by East Grinstead in the first weekend of the season in September, before further losses to Dorking, Old Elthamians and Bury St Edmunds.

They secured their first win on October 12 with a tight 33-31 away victory over Guernsey.

More victories followed at home to Thurrock, Westcombe Park, Hertford and Barking for a stretch of five wins in six games.

But 'Stoke's form has dipped since their last victory on November 23, and face a tough test in their next match against Old Elthamians on January 4.

Sport Bites

Testing season for 'Stoke racers

ROB Collard endured his most difficult season in the British Touring Car Championship in recent years, as he finished 13th in the standings with 140 points.

The North Hampshire driver only made one appearance on the podium with a third-place finish at Knockhill.

However, a number of mechanical problems and collisions cost Collard several strong points-scoring finishes.

Meanwhile, eBay Motors team-mate Nick Foster also had a tough season, with his best result being a fourth-place finish at Croft.

Foster was only able to finish in the top-10 on seven occasions during 2013, and ended the year 15th in the standings with 98 points.

Collard said: "We worked hard to make improvements and we showed the pace there was in the car as the year went on, even if the results didn't always go our way."

Foster added: "Although I wasn't able to achieve my aim of getting onto the podium this year, the fourth place was a good race through the field from 12th on the grid."

Harrison second

BASINGSTOKE ice skater Danielle Harrison tasted success at the British Championships in Sheffield, as she came second in the junior ladies category.

Danielle's free programme received top marks, and a fourth-place in the short programme put her in second overall.

Talulla Corbett, Sam Tudgay, Lucy Ann Walker, Oliver Parrington-Tyler and Victoria Jackson were also in action at the championships, with the first three recording personal best results.

Whitchurch look to kick-on, Hartley hoping to climb table

WHITCHURCH'S 12-game unbeaten run in the Wessex Premier League was brought to an end with a 2-1 away defeat to Blackfield and Langley.

This was their first league loss since September 21, meaning they were sixth in the standings with 43 points before their home fixture against Bournemouth Poppies last Saturday.

They next play today at Alresford Town, before a home tie with Horndean on Saturday.

Tadley Calleva also suffered defeat in their North Hampshire Senior Cup tie away to Alresford Town, as they were beaten 2-0 at the semi-final stage.

Calleva return to Wessex First Division action on Saturday with an away match against Ringwood Town, after last week's trip to Andover New Street.

Hartley Wintney also return to action on Saturday, as they make the journey to face Camberley Town.

It follows last weekend's game against Bedfont Sports, and a 3-1 win at home to Ash United which was their first Combined Counties Premier league in six matches.

Last week's game against Molesey had to be postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

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Inside: Long joins ranks as Bison hope for EPL success… | Whitchurch look to kick-on, Hartley hoping to climb table

'WE NEED TO CLIMB DIVISION'

Bristow issues rallying cry to players as half-way point looms

JASON Bristow has admitted his side should be higher in the table than the current league position suggests.

Bristow's team have slipped into mid-table in recent weeks after struggling to score goals and, consequently, win matches.

Their season can be divided into four – a strong start of four wins in five matches was followed by five losses in seven in all competitions.

After beating Boreham Wood on October 19, they won four more in a row after that, before the recent dip in form, which also saw them exit the FA Trophy at the hands of Havant and Waterlooville. However, the league is very much at the forefront of Bristow's mind.

"We'd certainly like to be higher, and feel we should be higher," he said.

By **James Booker**

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

"We've dominated a lot of games where we haven't turned possession into goals. That's been the nature of the first half of the season.

"If we can start turning the chances into goals, I think we would be a top side, and that's what we're going to be trying to do in the second half of the season.

"It's about finding that consistency, and we can't afford to have spells where we're not winning games.

"If we do lose a game, we have to make sure we respond and bounce back in the next game."

Despite the slump, Bristow is confident in his group of players, and has praised the strength in depth as being key to progressing up the league.

"We're disappointed with where we are, but we have got every confidence we can climb the table again," he said.

"We have got good strength in depth at the moment – players turn up on a Saturday not knowing whether they'll be playing or not, which is good – it keeps them on their toes.

"Everyone is fighting for their place at the moment, which is what we've always wanted."

Basingstoke take on Farnborough at the Camrose tonight, before travelling to Gosport Borough on Saturday.

And the reverse fixture against Farnborough is just four days later on New Year's Day, as the games typically come thick and fast for the Dragons over the festive period.

· Jason Bristow (right) and assistant manager Michael Gilkes will hope to mastermind a rise up the Skrill South in 2014 (Picture by Les Chase)

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